(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The review was done by the National Policy on Education Review Committee (NPERC) headed by Acharya Ramamurti as well as by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Policy under the Chairmanship of Shri N Janardhana Reddy during 1990-92. Following this, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 were updated and tabled in the House on 7th May, 1992 and 19th August, 1992 respectively.

Indian Coast Guard

559. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Indian Coast Guard are facing difficulties in strengthening vigil due to inadequate number of ships and aeroplanes and shortage of other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any information regarding intimidation of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistani navy along Western Coast;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures Government are taking to strengthen vigil along the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The Coast Guard are maintaining the required vigil by appropriately deploying ships and aircraft available with them. Upgradation of facilities and requipping of forces is an ongoing process which is given priority attention.

(c) and (d). In the absence of a well-defined IBL between India and Pakistan at sea, there have been stray incidents of apprehension of fishermen by armed forces of either country and some reports of intimidation to Indian fishermen.

(e) Enhanced maritime surveillance and patrolling are being carried out jointly by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard in the sensitive coastal areas.

SYL Canal Project

560. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested so far on the construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL);

(b) the progress made in the construction of this canal, so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to chalk out a time bound programme for completion of the SYL canal project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Central Government has released Rs. 499.12 crores to the Government of Punjab for construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal so far.

(b) About 97% of the earth work, 95% of the lining work and 86% of the structures were completed when the construction work came to a halt.

(c) and (d). The information cannot be disclosed in public interest.

Pak's Offer of Most Favoured Nation Status

561. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Pakistan regarding formal trade between the two countries and offer of most favoured nation status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has not accorded MFN status to India and permits import from a list of 573 items.

Government have taken up the issue of grant of MFN status to India with Pakistan on several occasions and at various levels. Pakistan's official response is awaited.

International Monitoring System Facilities

562. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had made it clear at Conference on disarmament, Geneva that it would withdraw its International Monitoring System facilities in India;